

**East Longmeadow Pool Building Committee**  
**School Committee Conference Room and Zoom Meeting**  
**May 11, 2023 – 3:00 PM**

Attendees:

Cora Gauvin, Pool Building Committee Chair  
Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
Stephen Chrusciel, School Building Committee Chair  
Donna Prather, Recreation Director  
Kevin Magee, School Athletic Director  
Greg Thompson - School Committee Chair  
Charles Grey, Community Member

Other Attendees:

Skanska USA Building, Inc.: Ben Murphy, John Benzinger, Dale Caldwell, Victoria Clifford  
Design Team (JWA/SMMA): Kristian Whitsett, Helen Fantini, Dorrie Brooks, Lorraine Finnigan  
(virtually)

3:05 start of meeting

**Introductions**

- Ben Murphy, Skanska, welcomed everyone and kicked off introductions.
- The committee members went around the room for introductions.

**Project Goals and Parameters**

- The design team presented the proposed project schedule.
- Kristian explained that the original goal of East Longmeadow was to have the pool as part of the school building project. Based on MSBA feedback, the MSBA would not participate in HS project if a pool were to be included. Therefore, the SBC decided to separate the pool building as a separate project but plan for the pool on the site.
- The SBC did a preliminary study on if the pool should be renovated which was not advantageous due to cost and location. The pool will be all new and will closely mirror the West Springfield High School pool project, a previous SMMA project.
- To meet the timeline of the HS project, the pool project will jump directly into Schematic Design.
- Project approval goal will be to have the SD set estimated by the end of the summer and include the pool project on the same November debt exclusion vote ballot as the HS project, as a separate vote.
- We will not need to submit this project to the MSBA for MSBA approval, but following the same timeline as the MSBA project and similar process in terms of an estimating process.
  
- Gordon reported that the Town Council approved funding for the SD of the Pool Project last week. Due to the way the ballot votes will be set up; the pool cannot pass without

passing the school. Although the MSBA is separating the projects, they are very much attached.

## Design Overview

- The design team presented a preliminary site concept and reviewed the site plan in relation to the proposed new school project.
- Site circulation:
  - Working on two loops, one for bus and one for parent drop off/pick up. Proposing using a loop for the pool to use separately. The design team asked for input on hours the pool would be open to the public.
  - Cora responded that the pool is not used much during the day by the school. Would advocate for opening the pool to the public during the day for lessons. The senior center would like to have more senior programming during the day. If possible, would like to see community use before school hours and during school hours and extended weekend hours.
  - Charles noted that physical separation from school will have a positive impact for increased community use.
  - Dorrie noted that the parking will primarily focus on serving the school. Day use for the pool. Dorrie asked if the community tolerance would be for a further walking distance to pool.
    - Greg noted we should accommodate seniors and accessible parking closer to pool.
    - Donna added that 20 max spaces should be plenty for recreation needs.
    - Gordon noted that if we put 20 spots for the pool, we need to think about the operational side of enforce parking for pool only.
- The design team presented massing concepts and asked for feedback.
  - Charles voiced his hope to be forward thinking and asked the committee to consider an 11-lane pool.
  - Currently, the design team is planning for and has budgeted for a 6-lane pool.
  - Dale, Skanska, asked how many options design team plans on developing.
    - Dorrie answered that this is the first time they've heard of a request more than 6 lanes. Dorrie noted that they want to make the project palatable and will need to keep in mind the site constraints.
  - Greg noted we need to keep to 6 lanes to make the project budget more palatable.
- The design team asked if a bulkhead was desired.
  - The Committee discussed safety issues with the bulkhead.
- Preliminary floor plan
  - The design team noted that the pool building needs to be contained.
  - There will be an access point to the school, which will be reviewed further.
  - Cora asked that if hosting a large swim meet, would the HS locker room be easily accessible?
    - Yes
  - John, Skanska, asked how many square feet the plans currently show?

- 15,000 sf
- Dorrie suggested having a site visit at West Springfield High School Pool.
  - The design team will follow up with a doodle poll to schedule the tour.
- Greg asked if we have a price per square foot for the project.
  - Ben, Skanska, reported based on bid data from West Springfield, escalated to the midpoint of our project, we are about \$800 per square foot for the pool building.
  - Cora noted that there is extra space at the West Springfield Pool. It is very tight.
- Charles asked if a diving area could be included in a separate lane for safety. Charles noted that the college standard is 3 meters for diving and 1 meter for High School. We should check that high school standards are not slated to change.
- The design team noted that pool volume of water informs the bathroom code and the deeper the pool, the higher the costs for pumps.
- The design team asked if water polo was of interest.
  - Cora responded that she hasn't seen it in any local public schools, only private.
  - Donna responded that if we build it, it will get used.

#### Meeting Schedule

- Mirror SBC Meeting Schedule
- 3 PM, Thursdays
- Next meeting: 6/15 - 3 PM

#### New Business

- Pool Building Committee Chair nomination:
  - Steve nominated Cora. Charles seconded the motion.
  - Steve asked for a vote:
    - The following voted in the affirmative:
      - Cora Gauvin, Gordon Smith, Stephen Chrusciel, Donna Prather, Kevin Magee, Greg Thompson, Charles Grey.
    - 0 opposed
    - 0 absent
  - The motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Thompson. Stephen Chrusciel seconded.

- Steve asked for a vote:
  - The following voted in the affirmative:
    - Cora Gauvin, Gordon Smith, Stephen Chrusciel, Donna Prather, Kevin Magee, Greg Thompson, Charles Grey.
  - The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 PM.